

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 136C.3, the Department of Public Health hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 42, “Permit to Operate Ionizing Radiation Producing Machines or Administer Radioactive Materials,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 42 is being amended to provide for an endorsement to the general nuclear medicine technologist permit that would allow nuclear medicine technologists to operate computed tomography units for examinations outside of nuclear medicine studies. Currently, nuclear medicine technologists are allowed to administer radioactive materials and use computed tomography for attenuation correction in relation to the nuclear medicine studies of PET/CT or SPECT/CT but are not allowed to operate radiation machines outside of nuclear medicine studies unless the nuclear medicine technologists also hold a radiography permit. In response to industry desire to allow for flexibility in staffing, nuclear medicine training programs and certification boards have evolved to cover additional aspects of computed tomography into their curriculum and advanced testing options. With this additional training and certification, nuclear medicine technologists would possess the minimum training requirements necessary to perform computed tomography outside of a nuclear medicine study. These proposed amendments define computed tomography and outline the minimum requirements for an endorsement to the general nuclear medicine permit to allow endorsement holders to perform computed tomography outside the scope of nuclear medicine. There is no change in scope of practice for any other permit modalities. These proposed amendments were drafted with input from the Iowa Society of Radiologic Technologists and a facility with both a nuclear medicine department and training program.

Any interested person may make written comments or suggestions on the proposed amendments on or before June 13, 2017. Such written comments should be directed to Angela Leek, Bureau of Radiological Health, Department of Public Health, 321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. E-mail may be sent to angela.leek@idph.iowa.gov.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 136C.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** definitions of “Computed tomography,” “Nuclear medicine diagnostic computed tomography endorsement,” “PET/CT,” and “SPECT/CT” in rule **641—42.2(136C)**:

“*Computed tomography*” or “*CT*” means a technique for generating a series of X-ray images taken from different angles and processed with computer software.

1. “Diagnostic computed tomography” means the use of computed tomography to create cross-sectional images of the human body to be used for diagnosis.

2. “Attenuation correction” means the use of X-rays from a CT scan to construct an attenuation map of density differences throughout the body that can then be used to correct for the absorption of the photons emitted from Fluorodeoxyglucose (¹⁸F) decay during a PET/CT scan.

“*Nuclear medicine diagnostic computed tomography endorsement*” means a qualification that allows a nuclear medicine technologist to perform diagnostic computed tomography of the human body as ordered by an individual authorized by Iowa law to order radiography.

“PET/CT” means an imaging modality that uses positron emission tomography and computed tomography in one device to combine the structural anatomic information with functional data collected during the examination.

“SPECT/CT” means an imaging modality that uses single-photon emission computed tomography and computed tomography in one device to combine the structural anatomic information with functional data collected during the examination.

ITEM 2. Amend rule **641—42.2(136C)**, definitions of “Nuclear medicine technologist,” “Radiologic technologist,” and “X-ray equipment operator,” as follows:

“Nuclear medicine technologist” means an individual who performs nuclear medicine procedures while under the supervision of an authorized user. The classifications are as follows:

1. “General nuclear medicine technologist” performs any nuclear medicine procedures and may perform computed tomography for attenuation correction during PET/CT or SPECT/CT only.

2. “Limited nuclear medicine technologist” performs nuclear medicine procedures only as approved by the department at the time the initial permit was issued.

“Radiologic technologist” means an individual, excluding X-ray equipment operators, who performs radiography of the human body as ordered by an individual authorized by Iowa law to order radiography. The classifications are as follows:

1. “General radiologic technologist” performs radiography and computed tomography of any part of the human body.

2. “Limited radiologic technologist” performs radiography for the chest, spine, extremities, shoulder or pediatrics, excluding CT computed tomography and fluoroscopy.

3. “Limited in-hospital radiologic technologist” performs radiography of any part of the human body as approved by the department at the time the initial permit was issued.

“X-ray equipment operator” means an individual performing radiography of the human body using dedicated equipment as ordered by an individual authorized by Iowa law to order radiography. These individuals do not qualify for a permit in any other classification. The classifications are as follows:

1. “Podiatric X-ray equipment operator” performs radiography of only the foot and ankle using dedicated podiatric equipment. Studies using CT computed tomography, fluoroscopy, or nondedicated equipment are prohibited.

2. “Bone densitometry equipment operator” performs bone densitometry using only dual energy X-ray absorptiometry equipment. Studies using CT computed tomography, fluoroscopy, or nondedicated equipment are prohibited.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following **new** subrule 42.6(4):

42.6(4) An individual applying for a nuclear medicine diagnostic computed tomography endorsement shall:

a. Maintain an active permit to practice as a general nuclear medicine technologist. Endorsements may not be held without an active permit.

b. Submit proof of a passing score on the ARRT or NMTCB computed tomography examination.